India and Hyderabad International Airport Limited (HIAL), the existing airport at Begumpet shall be closed for commercial operations once the new airport at Shamsabad becomes operational. However, this airport can be used for transportation of dignitaries by VIP aircraft and for general aviation services.

Star Alliance Network

494. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

whether Air India has joined the Star Alliance network;

if so, how the joining of Air India in Star Alliance help Air India and its passengers; and

how joining Star Alliance help Air India operation and its proposed European hub in Munich or Vienna?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Air India (AI) has been accepted as a future member of Star Alliance.

(b) and (c) Once a member of the Alliance, AI will be able to derive benefits by way of special/preferred rates under "Umbrella Agreements" entered into by Star Alliance with various industry service providers, which will lead to reduction in cost and increase in revenues. It will also be able to offer Premium Customer Benefits, Common Star Products etc. to its customers. Its entry into Star Alliance could also contribute significantly to the success of its planned European Hub - by way of feed provided by the Star carriers to Air India's services at the Hub.

Medical facilities at airports

495. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that an NRI died at the Mumbai International Airport due to medical negligence;

if so, the details in this regard;

what arrangements are in place at various airports for emergency treatment and first-aid as the aviation industry and air travel has risen tremendously; and

how many such cases have been reported in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

Does not arise.

Airport-wise details are as under:

(i) IGI Airport, Delhi: Round-the-clock medical inspection units are functional.

(ii) CSI Airport, Mumbai: Three fully equipped medical rooms supported by ICU ambulances and trained staff are functional round the clock.

(iii) Chennai, Kolkata and Trivandrum airports: Medical inspection rooms managed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) medical officers are functional.

(iv) Ahmedabad, Calicut, Jaipur, Nagpur, Dimapur, Mangalore, Tiruchirapalli and Goa

airports: Medical inspection rooms are being managed by local reputed nursing homes/hospitals.

(v) Leh, Tezpur, Srinagar, Amritsar, Ranchi and Lengpui airports: Medical inspection rooms are being maintained by the concerned State Governments.

(vi) Other functional airports of AAI: First-aid facilities are provided.

(d) No cases of death due to medical negligence has been reported during the last three years.

Investigations by the MRTPC

496. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

whether the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) investigated cartelization in shipping, transport and tyre industries as announced in the last week of December, 2007;

if so, the details thereof;

whether this cartelization adversely affected the growth of comparatively smaller entrepreneurs in these industries; and

(d) whether such investigations are done only when specific cases are brought to Government's notice or it is an on-going exercise on the part of MRTPC?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (c) The MRTP Commission directed the Director General (Investigation & Registration) to investigate into alleged cartelization in tyre and airline industry and submit Preliminary Investigation Report. The investigations against tyre manufacturers/airlines are in progress. The details of cases under investigation are at Annex.

(d) Investigations are ordered by the MRTP Commission in specific cases of allegations of cartelization on the basis of a complaint filed by a consumer or a registered consumer association, or upon a reference made to it by the Central Government or State Government, or upon an application made to it by the DG(I&R), or upon its own knowledge or information as provided under Section 10(a) of the MRTP Act, 1969.

Fake chartered accountants

497. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be
pleased to state:

whether Government is aware that several unqualified accountants and auditors are pretending to be Chartered Accountant professionals and using false registration numbers and also issuing fake certificates;

if so, the details thereof;

whether Government has since taken or proposes to take any concrete steps to nab such illegal Chartered Accountants in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?